

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRIDGE 00159 192217Z

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 OIC-02 EB-07 IGA-02 EUR-12 AID-05

TRSE-00 OMB-01 COME-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /060 W

-----200033Z 103387 /75-61

R 191403Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2118

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRIDGETOWN 0159

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: OAS, GJ

SUBJECT: OAS MEETING IN GRENADA

REF: THYDEN-SIMMS TELCON 1/19/77 AND PREVIOUS EMBASSY
COMMUNICATIONS SAME SUBJECT

1. PREVIOUS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES: GRENADA HAS HOSTED
NUMEROUS GATHERINGS THAT STRICTLY SPEAKING COULD BE TERMED
"INTERNATIONAL," HOWEVER THEY SHOULD MORE ACCURATELY BE
TERMED "REGIONAL." TO BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE NONE HAVE INVOLVED
MORE THAN THREE OR FOUR DOZEN PARTICIPANTS.

2. THE EMBASSY IS UNAWARE OF ANY GRENADIAN DEFAULTS ON ANY
OF ITS INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS. SUGGEST DEPART-
MENT CONFIRM THIS WITH IMF WASHINGTON. HOWEVER, GAIRY
GOVERNMENT HAS ON AT LEAST ONE OCCASION DIVERTED A SUBSTAN-
TIAL AMOUNT OF UK AID FROM DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS TO PAY THE
ISLAND'S CIVIL SERVANTS. THAT CAPER RESULTED IN HMG PLACING
A TEMPORARY EMBARGO ON FURTHER AID TO THE GOG. BRITISH AID
HAS NOW BEEN TURNED BACK ON. (OF POSSIBLE RELEVANCE IS THE
CURRENT GOG-CANADIAN DISPUTE OVER AID TO THE ISLAND.
DISPLEASED OVER CIDA'S AWARD OF A CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT
TO THE LOWEST BIDDER WHO IS AN OPPOSITION FIGURE, THE
PM SUBJECTED THE SPEAKER OF THE CANADIAN LOWER HOUSE,
IN GRENADA ON A COURTESY VISIT, TO A 2 1/2 HOUR HARANGUE.
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THE SPEAKER LEFT HERE, ACCORDING TO HIS ESCORT OFFICER,
VOWING TO SEE THAT GAIRY RECEIVES NOTHING MORE FROM
CANADA. MULTIPLE SOURCES IN THE CANADIAN HIGH COMMISSION
HERE SAY THEY WON'T GIVE IN TO GAIRY'S WISHES AND THEY
DON'T EXPECT HIM TO BACK OFF.)

3. COMMERCIAL BANKS; THE LONE US BANK (CHASE) ABANDONED

GRENADA APPROXIMATELY 5 MONTHS AGO. ITS LAST MANAGER TOLD
EMBOFF THAT NOT ONLY HAD THE OPERATION CONSISTENTLY LOST MONEY
BUT HE FORESAW INCREASING PROBLEMS WITH THE GOG AND ITS PENCHANT
FOR FORCING THE COMERCIAL BANKS TO DEFICIT FINANCE THE
GOVERNMENT BY STEADILY RAISING THE OVERDRAFT LIMITS.

4. REQUEST NO EMBASSY REPORTING THIS MATTER BE PROVIDED
ANYONE OUTSIDE USG IN ANY FORM INDICATING ITS ORIGIN.
BRITTON

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FINANCIAL STABILITY, RELATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGS, DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 19-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BRIDGE00159
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770020-0789
Format: TEL
From: BRIDGETOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770138/aaaabhli.tel
Line Count: 71
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8ff5a2d4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3563048
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OAS MEETING IN GRENADA
TAGS: PORG, BB, OAS
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8ff5a2d4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009